

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system for directing an optical image on an electric image sensor, said zoom lens system comprising:

a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;  
a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and

~~a third lens unit including a most image side lens unit~~ following lens unit having at least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit and having at least a positive lens element and a negative lens element in a lens unit,

wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 < |f_l/f_w|$$

where  $f_l$  is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and  $f_w$  is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length condition.

2. (Previously Presented) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit has a positive optical power.

3. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit has a negative optical power.

4. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the most image side lens unit includes at least one aspherical surface.

5. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the focusing is performed by moving on the optical axis a positive single lens element disposed in a position on the image side of a diaphragm and not included in the most image side lens unit.

6. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first lens unit includes only one negative lens element.

7. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first lens unit is moved so as to draw a locus convex to the image side in zooming from the shortest focal length condition to the longest focal length condition.

8. (Original) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the zoom lens systems satisfy the following condition:

$$\nu 1 > 45$$

where  $\nu 1$  is the Abbe number of the single negative lens element constituting the first lens unit.

9. (Currently Amended) A zoom lens system as claimed in claim 1 wherein the zoom lens systems satisfy the following condition:

$$2.3 \leq f_w/f_l \leq 5.5$$

where  $f_w$  is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the shortest focal length, and  $f_l$  is the focal length of the zoom lens system in the longest focal length condition.

10. (Currently Amended) An image capturing device comprising:  
an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system,  
into electric image data, and  
a zoom lens system,  
said zoom lens system comprising,  
a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;  
a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and  
~~a third lens unit including a most image side lens unit~~ following lens unit having at least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit and having at least a positive lens element and a negative lens element in a lens unit,  
wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 < |f_l/f_w|$$

where  $f_l$  is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and  $f_w$  is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length condition.

11. (Currently Amended) A digital camera comprising:  
an electric image sensor converting an optical image formed by the zoom lens system,  
into electric image data, and  
a zoom lens system,  
said zoom lens system comprising,  
a first lens unit disposed on a most object side and having a negative optical power;  
a second lens unit having a positive optical power; and  
~~a third lens unit including a most image side lens unit~~ following lens unit having at  
least a third lens unit and a fourth lens unit and having at least a positive lens element and a  
negative lens element in a lens unit,

wherein the following condition is satisfied:

$$3 < |f_l/f_w|$$

where  $f_l$  is a focal length of the most image side lens unit, and  $f_w$  is a focal length of the zoom lens system in a shortest focal length condition.